

**USDA Forest Service, Washington Office,
State and Private Forestry, Cooperative Forestry**

MEMBERSHIP BALANCE PLAN

1. Committee's Official Designation

Forest Resource Coordinating Committee

2. Authority

The Forest Resource Coordinating Committee (Committee) is hereby renewed in pursuant to Section 8005 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Act) (Pub. L. No. 110-246) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (Pub. L. No. 92-463).

3. Objectives and Scope of Activities

The purpose of the Committee is to provide direction and coordination of actions within the U.S. Department of Agriculture, State Agencies, and the private sector; to effectively address the shared national priorities for private forest conservation listed below, with specific focus on owners of non-industrial private forest land:

- a. Conserving and managing working forest landscapes for multiple values and uses;
- b. Protecting forests from threats, including catastrophic wildfires, hurricanes, tornados, windstorms, snow or ice storms, flooding, drought, invasive species, insect or disease outbreak, or development, and restoring appropriate forest types in response to such threats; and
- c. Enhancing public benefits from private forests, including air and water quality, soil conservation, biological diversity, carbon storage, forest products, forestry-related jobs, production of renewable energy, wildlife, wildlife corridors and wildlife habitat, and recreation.

4. Points of View Needed for the Committee

In accordance to the Act, the Committee shall consist of 20 members, composed of four Federal Agency representatives and 16 non-federal representatives appointed by the Secretary. The members shall provide a broad and balanced representation from the conservation community as follows:

- Chief of the Forest Service;
- Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service;
- Administrator of the Farm Service Agency;
- Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture;
- At least three State Foresters or equivalent State officials from geographically diverse regions of the United States;
- State Fish and Wildlife Agency;
- Non-Industrial Private Forest Landowners;
- Forest Industry;
- Conservation Organizations;
- Land-Grant University or College;
- Private Forestry Consultant;
- State Technical Committee; and
- Such other persons, as determined by the Secretary, to be appropriate.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the membership of this Committee is balanced, nevertheless, USDA recognizes that committee membership is not static and may change, depending on the work of the Committee.

5. Other Balance Factors

To ensure the membership of the Committee is representative of the population it serves, the agency added two additional non-industrial private forest landowners, two additional conservation organization representatives, a Tribal representative, and a representative from Conservation Districts to represent those points of view on the committee.

Equal opportunity practices in accordance with USDA policies will be followed in all appointments to the Committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by USDA, membership will include to the extent possible, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women and persons with disabilities.

The USDA prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

6. Quorum Requirements

Twelve members, consisting of at least eight non-federal members, constitute a quorum.

7. Candidate Identification Process

The Agency solicited nomination by publishing a request for nominations in the Federal Register, conducting targeted outreach, and by contacting an extensive list of partners. Once nominations were received, the Committee Designated Federal Officer and staff reviewed applications to identify qualified candidates.

Once candidates have been identified, their names and background data are submitted to the USDA White House Liaison's office for vetting. The vetting process includes a background check to determine if any of the candidates have a conflict of interest that would prohibit them from serving on the committee due to criminal or ethical violations.

8. Subcommittee Balance

The subcommittee will be consistent, as much as possible, with the make-up of the general committee.

9. Other

10. Date Prepared or Updated

April 8, 2015